

Record

THE BAPTIST

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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JAN 15 2008

GA camp dates corrected

Some recently-printed material may contain incorrect dates for 2008 Girls in Action (GA) events at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. The correct GA Camp Dates are as follows: June 2-6; June 9-13; June 16-20; June 23-27; June 30-July 4; July 7-11, July 14-18, and July 21-25.

For more information, contact Erica Harms, mission impact consultant for the Mission Extension Division of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3315 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 315. E-mail: eharms@mbcb.org.

Christians come under attack in Iraq

By Peter Lamprecht
Compass Direct News

ISTANBUL (BP) — Several Iraqi Christian sites were damaged in coordinated bomb blasts on Sunday morning, January 6, the day many Iraqi Christians celebrated either Epiphany or Christmas Eve according to some Eastern liturgical calendars.

At least six people were injured, one seriously.

"Three churches in Baghdad and three in Mosul [were hit], but there were no fatalities," Chaldean Auxiliary Bishop Andreas Abouna told Compass Direct News from Baghdad. The blasts occurred within five minutes of each other at approximately 11 a.m., Abouna said.

Chaldeans, an eastern-rite church in communion with Rome, make up the majority of Iraq's Christians.

Father Bashar Warda of St. Peter's Seminary told Compass, "There has been much violence against the Sunni and Shiites, while the Christians have been left alone, at least for [the past few months]." The blasts, he said, let Chaldeans and Iraq's other indigenous churches know that "whatever [violence] is happening around the country, you [Christians] will be part of it also."

In Mosul, at least four people were wounded, one of them seriously, when a parked car exploded outside an Ancient Assyrian Church of the East parish in the al-Nur district, reported Father Emmanuel Youkhana of Christian Aid Group Nohadra Iraq.

Arriving at their Eastern calendar Christmas Eve day service, approaching churchgoers had noticed an unfamiliar car parked outside their building, Youkhana said.

"They looked at the car and even tried to see what was under it," Youkhana told Compass. The vehicle exploded after the worshippers entered the church, causing no fatalities.

In Baghdad, a bomb damaged the rear entrance of St. George Chaldean Church, while a mortar round hit a Greek-Melkite parish, injuring two worshippers, according to Iraqi Christian website Ankawa.com.

According to Warda, a bomb blast simultaneously hit a Chaldean convent in Baghdad's Zaafaraniya quarter.

In Mosul, the St. Paul Chaldean church as well as the House of the Holy Spirit, a Chaldean convent in New Mosul, were hit by blasts at about the same time, Warda said by telephone from Erbil. Attackers also targeted a Dominican convent in Mosul, the biblical city of Nineveh that traditionally



CHRISTIANS-TARGETED — Iraqis inspect damage caused by an explosion at the entrance of a monastery in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on January 6, one of several bombs that were detonated in coordinated fashion around the embattled country on Sunday morning — the day many Iraqi Christians celebrated either Epiphany or Christmas Eve according to some Eastern liturgical calendars. (BP photo by Mujahed Mohammed/AFP/Getty Images)

has been home to Iraq's indigenous Christian minority.

According to Ankawa.com, security forces in Baghdad provided heavy security for local churches following the attacks.

Warda said it was fortunate that very little was taking place inside the churches at the time of the blasts. He said Chaldean families often baptize their children on the Feast of the Epiphany, which celebrates the incarnation of Jesus, while some churches focus the event on His baptism in the Jordan River.

The blasts brought an end to a fragile peace that Iraq's Christian minority had begun to enjoy in recent months.

"Things were at least getting calmer, at least for some of the pastoral activities that had been restarted already in Baghdad in several parishes," Warda told Compass. "I think the attack of yesterday has blocked part of the whole process."

Syrian Catholic Archbishop of Mosul Basile Georges Casmoussa registered his surprise over the explosions after having worked to improve relations with Muslims in recent months, Ankawa.com reported.

In a strongly worded statement, Chaldean Archbishop Faraj Rahoo called on the government to recognize that the bombings were part of a plan to drive Christians out of Iraq.

"We have been living in Iraq before Islam, but those strangers who came to the city are causing the kidnappings and bombings and trying to sow sedition in the hearts of Iraqis," Rahoo was quoted by Ankawa.com as saying.

In the past year, Islamist groups have evicted Christians from entire Baghdad neighborhoods, threatening forced conversion or death if they do not pay jizya, an Islamic tax imposed on non-Muslims.

In October, militants kidnapped two Syrian Catholic priests in Mosul, demanding a ransom for their release.

According to Ankawa.com, Rahoo called on violent insurgent groups to attack U.S. troops rather than Iraq's indigenous Christians. The Christians have often complained that insurgents equate them with the U.S. military because of the perception that both groups are Christian.

With the vast majority of Iraq's violence stemming from Sunni-Shiite fighting, it is unclear whether perceived association with the United States is the main cause of attacks against Iraqi Christians.

Compass Direct News, based in Santa Ana, Calif., provides reports on Christians worldwide who are persecuted for their faith. Used by permission.



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A bomb here, a hit there

As the anti-God movie *The Golden Compass* fades quickly from theaters, Christians can thank God that the film was nothing short of a box office bomb in the United States. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case overseas.

To review, *The Golden Compass* is the motion picture adaptation of the first book of the trilogy, *His Dark Materials*, by British author Phillip Pullman.

Although Pullman is the son of an Anglican clergyman, he is virulently opposed to the concept of a loving God and Creator, and seeks in his trilogy to paint God as a malignant fraud interested only in maintaining absolute control.

Pullman has openly stated, "I'm trying to undermine the basis of Christian belief," and, "My books are about killing God."

That's the background for *His Dark Materials*, which consists of the books *The Golden Compass*, *The Subtle Knife*, and *The Amber Spyglass*.

As stated earlier, *The Golden Compass* didn't catch on with American audiences. According to box-officemojo.com, the movie so far has grossed \$65,521,000 in domestic release. By contrast, the 2005 movie adaptation of C.S. Lewis' openly Christian book, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, grossed \$291,710,957, in domestic release.



The Golden Compass made up a lot of ground in foreign theaters, however, thus far grossing \$195,465,902 overseas and bringing its total take to \$261,130,398. While that sum is far below the \$744,783,957 ultimately

earned by *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, it could still be enough to convince the backers of *His Dark Materials* to proceed with the second and third movies of the series — and that is troubling.

Christians familiar with the trilogy say the most anti-religious elements are not contained in *The Golden Compass*, even though it was watered down, but rather in the second and third books. As a matter of fact, Chris Weitz, director of *The Golden Compass*, has admitted some of the more controversial themes were excised from the movie.

He has also said he intends to be truer to the books when he makes the second and third movies. "The whole point, to me, of ensuring that *The Golden Compass* is a financial success is so that we have a solid foundation on which to deliver a faithful, more literal adaptation of the second and third books," Weitz said Nov. 14 on an MTV movie blog.

Our response should be twofold. First, we should start praying now that the remaining two movies will not be made and that all those involved in the creation of these books and movies will be touched by God and convicted of the error of their ways.

Secondly, if the foreign box office for *The Golden Compass* reveals anything to us, it is that that we still have a great distance to go before we fulfill *The Great Commission* (Matthew 28:18-20). There are too many lost people to falter now.

Let's start praying, and keep going. The stakes are too high to do otherwise.

New consultants begin duties at Baptist Building

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The new year has brought a pair of new consultants to the Baptist Building in Jackson. Erica Harms has begun her new duties as missions impact consultant with the Mission Strategy Division of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), while Rob Chambers will serve as consultant in the Christian Action Commission (CAC) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Harms, a native of Franklin, Tn., will serve three important roles, according to David Michel, MBCB associate executive director for mission strategy.

"Erica will coordinate the annual promotion of the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering; assist in the coordination of camp activities at Camp Garaywa, the Girls in Action (GA) campground in Clinton; and maintain a year-round awareness of state missions activities and events," Michel said.

Harms served as a ministry assistant in the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union Department in 2005, prior to beginning studies at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson. She also worked as assistant director/staff enrichment specialist at Camp Garaywa; as a youth minister at Morrison Heights Church in Clinton; and as editor-in-chief of the Mississippi College newspaper in Clinton.

She has also served as a marriage and family student therapist at the Center for



Harms

Marriage and Family Therapy in Jackson.

Harms holds a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy degree from Reformed Seminary, and a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism Communication from Mississippi College where she was a summa cum laude graduate.

"Erica's work at Camp Garaywa focuses on preparing young women for mission service, and her journalistic skills help inform all Mississippi Baptists of the growing importance of involvement in state mission support through the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering," Michel said.

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At CAC, Chambers will replace Lee Yancey, who resigned after being elected last fall to the Mississippi Senate from Rankin County.

Chambers previously served as director of constituent relations and mobilization at the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville; as youth minister at First Church, Marks; and as interim single adult minister and associate single adult minister at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson.

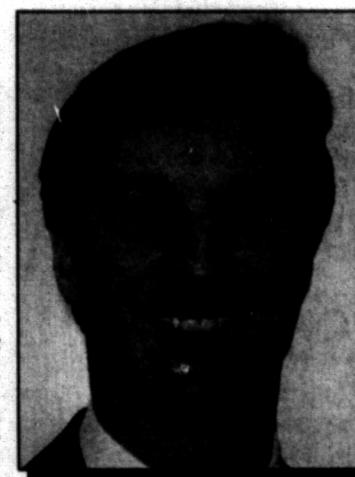
Chambers holds a Master of Divinity degree from Southern Seminary in

Louisville, Ky., and a Bachelor of Science degree from Mississippi University for Women in Columbus. He is currently in the thesis writing stage for the Master of Philosophy degree from the University of Mississippi, and has other studies at New Orleans Seminary, the University of Mississippi, and Mississippi State University in Starkville.

Chambers, a native of Ackerman, is married to Ann Fletcher Chambers, a native of Indianola.

"Rob's concentration in ethics studies at seminary will definitely be an asset to CAC. He has numerous contacts all over the U.S. from his work with ERLC. He has worked with the state Baptist conventions' directors and has a good understanding of how each state convention works," said Jimmy Porter, CAC executive director. "In addition, Rob has a love for people and will work to do whatever possible to make their lives better in the environment in which they live."

Chambers may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3331 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 331. E-mail: rchambers@christianaction.com.



Chambers

So. Baptists help desperate Zimbabweans

HARARE, Zimbabwe (BP) — With food prices spiraling out of sight and their country's economy in ruins, the average family in Zimbabwe is struggling to survive.

Store shelves are devoid of basic necessities such as oil, flour, sugar, corn meal, and even soap. Most items can be found on the black market, but few can afford the inflated prices. Buying one tomato would cost some pensioners their entire month's income.

Southern Baptists are responding to the desperate need by shipping 1,000 boxes of food into the country. Six hundred parcels are scheduled to be delivered before the Christmas holidays, and the remainder will arrive soon after.

Baptist Global Response, a Southern Baptist development and relief organization, purchased the groceries at a cost of about \$70 per box with money Southern Baptists donated to their World Hunger Fund.

"Southern Baptists care about ministering in a holistic way. Zimbabwe is in dire need," said Mark Hatfield, who leads Baptist Global Response work in sub-Saharan Africa. "We can connect people in need with people who care enough to help."

While the crisis in Zimbabwe isn't the result of a natural disaster, the economic problem has left the people in the same kind of desperate plight — unable to afford or acquire the basic necessities of daily life.

Inflation in the country is out of control. In November, Zimbabwe's chief statistician said it was impossible to calculate the inflation rate because stores didn't have anything on the shelves to put price tags on. The last inflation statistic released by the gov-



BARE CUPBOARDS — Prices in Zimbabwe constantly change due to hyperinflation, which runs as high as 14,000% a year in the African nation. This common staple food, sadza (boiled corn meal), is often too expensive for a family to buy even if they can find it. Southern Baptists have committed to helping the people of Zimbabwe during this crisis. (BP photo)

ernment was 14,000%, meaning that last year's 50-cent loaf of bread would now cost \$70 if a person could find a loaf of bread.

In September, the government tried to check the inflationary spiral by fixing prices on basic necessities. Stores couldn't afford to sell at the government prices, however, and many of them simply shut down, forcing basic necessities onto the black market.

"If you are upper middle class, you can manage," one Baptist pastor said, "but it's a hard life for the lower middle class and the lower class. Most people eat sadza [boiled corn meal] once a day for their meal. This is still

very expensive to get on the black market and hard to find."

Finding food is often the main problem. One Zimbabwean Baptist church that tried to help a local prison that needed food spent two weeks trying to find a bag of rice and four weeks looking for a bag of beans. They ended up paying \$62.50 for one bag of rice.

"The average person can't afford that," the pastor exclaimed.

"When Baptist Global Response came to our Baptist Union offering these food boxes, the pastors couldn't believe it," he continued. "There's no way to express the gratitude we feel, knowing someone cares for our people. It's humbling."

The food boxes being delivered contain rice, oil, salt, powdered milk, candles, corned beef, tea, sugar, soap, matches, flour, washing powder, and beans.

Besides purchasing the food boxes, Baptist Global Response also is providing the fuel need-

ed for distribution. That will allow local Baptist churches to distribute the boxes in their communities to families identified as being in need.

However, with nine out of 10 people in Zimbabwe unable to get proper food, this project will barely scratch the surface of the need.

"Life is hard for many people in Zimbabwe right now," the pastor explained. "Someone who once lived on a good pension now can only buy one tomato with their monthly pension."

"Can you imagine working all your life to be able to buy one tomato?"

Gifts to the Southern Baptist World Hunger may be sent to Baptist Global Response, 402 BNA Drive, Suite 411, Nashville, TN 37217, or www.gobgr.org. Checks should be made out to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. Each donation is applied 100% toward hunger needs; nothing is withheld for administrative costs.

Steroid fallout

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — When former U.S. Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell released his report on Dec. 13, he identified 89 Major League Baseball players as users of illegal performance-enhancing drugs. Included on that list are a few players who are professing Christians, most notably Andy Pettitte, Brian Roberts, and Paul Byrd, among others. Pettitte is a Sunday School teacher at his home church in Texas and is the author of *Strike Zone: Targeting a Life of Integrity & Purity*, published by B&H Publishing Group. After the release of the Mitchell Report, in which Pettitte was accused of using human growth hormone while recovering from an elbow injury, Pettitte admitted the accuracy of that charge. Roberts admitted to using steroids one time in 2003. "I immediately realized that this was not what I stood for or anything that I wanted to continue doing," Roberts said in a statement. Byrd made headlines during the American League Championship Series in October when it was revealed that he had purchased HGH, but Byrd said he did so with a legitimate prescription from his doctor because he had a deficiency of adult-growth hormone. That men of faith would be present in the Mitchell Report didn't come as a surprise to Rick Horton, former St. Louis Cardinals pitcher and St. Louis area director for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. "Not only have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, but they continue to do it after they have a relationship with Christ," Horton said. "It's a continuing battle. It's legitimate to say that I'm disappointed, but I do think we have to look in the mirror. I think we need to have an attitude of forgiveness to brothers who make mistakes, and who make big mistakes."

Looking back

10 years ago

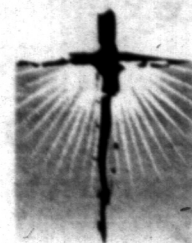
Mississippi WMU designs and releases a kit to all church WMU directors containing materials for helping every Mississippi Baptist to know about plans for Patterson Place, the planned adult lodge named for Marjean Patterson, executive director, Mississippi WMU.

20 years ago

The deacon body of Arbor Grove Church, Houston, honor their oldest deacon, Cecil Vanlandingham, by presenting him with a certificate of appreciation and a watch. Vanlandingham, who turned 90 in September, is still an active deacon. Wayne King, pastor.

50 years ago

A new Southern Baptist seminary, to be located in Kansas City, Missouri, is scheduled to open in 1958. The operating budget of Midwestern Seminary will be \$110,000.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

**THE SECOND
FRONT PAGE**

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No. 2



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

CHRISTMAS CARD CONSIDERATION

I hope that by now you have gotten all of your 2007 Christmas cards. Regardless of whether you work for the Postal Service or not you may be growing weary of Christmas mail. I do not wish to add to your postal weariness and neither do I desire to be critical of Christmas cards, but I would like you to consider the greetings that are sent during the Christmas Season.

While the Christmas card business is no doubt a huge industry, there are now so many different ways of sending holiday thoughts that it is mind-boggling. Just in a kind of post-Christmas reflective mood, let me give you my top ten categories of Christmas card wishes.

Most people are familiar with the measurement for hurricanes or tornadoes, and I offer to you a calculated consideration for Christmas cards. Ten is what I consider the best of the Christmas greetings, and from there on it descends to some that are not so good.

10. This is what I consider a real Christmas card: a handwritten note that expresses love, longing, and a personal expression laced with emotion and then it is actually signed by a real person. It is put in an envelope and mailed with a genuine U.S. postal stamp.

9. This is a real Christmas card actually signed by the people who are sending it. Again, it comes with a high-priced U.S. postage stamp. The signature usually is accompanied by some brief but meaningful, "We wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish we could



Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Directions

be with you this Christmas," or some similar note that lets you know they really, genuinely, personally care for you.

8. This category of cards is also a real Christmas card: a picture of the kids, dogs and cats, or some cutesy picture that they took back during summer vacation accompanies it. They included the printed names of all of the people and pets involved.

7. This card is a somewhat real Christmas card, but the reason that it is down the list of significant cards is because it simply has the names printed and occasionally will not even include the last name. So all you get is a card from Bob and Sandra from somewhere.

6. This is a somewhat real Christmas card that is sent by an institution or business with the company's logo or trademark in a prominent position but signed with real names.

5. Again we have an almost real Christmas card but this one is sent from a business or an organization with only the business name printed and no individuals identified.

At this halfway point we are about to get into Christmas cards that are virtually meaningless.

4. This card is a holiday greeting or a season's greeting card with nothing about Christmas because of the possible implications of offending someone about Christmas. Only a business title is printed.

3. Now we arrive at the new technology Christmas cards and at number three is the emailed, personalized, cartoon or caricature card that whistles, dances, sings, and even has your name and the person from whom it was sent on it.

2. This is another email Christmas card that has none of the fancy footwork of number three, but at least goes to the trouble of saying it is for you individually and is from a caring individual sitting at their computer somewhere.

1. This is the low-life form of Christmas cards. It is the generic email Christmas card that goes out with a touch of a button to everyone on someone's favorites list. Can you imagine someone sitting down and putting together some encouraging, personal, well-meaning Christmas thoughts and hitting the button that will send all of these words to a hundred, a thousand, or five thousand of their best friends to let them know how much they care. For me it is just another expression

of modern whoopity-do, insensitive, cyberspace mentality.

I thought that number one was at the top of the heap of meaningless Christmas expressions, but I was wrong and so I must add one final consideration.

Minus 5. This pitiful Christmas expression is an email sent by a secretary or an assistant expressing the warm, caring wishes of the CEO or important organizational person letting you know how much you really mean to them. I actually got several of these from folks saying in essence Mr. Big Shot asked me to write you on his behalf and express seasons greetings and let you know how much you mean to him and to our organization blah, blah, blah. I certainly could be wrong but if that is the best you can do, you are probably better off doing nothing.

Well that is the list and for the most part one through ten brought joy to my heart and often a smile to my face. No doubt in days to come there will be new fang-dangle ways of saying "Merry Christmas" and "I love you." It could be that in time even minus five could look like something special. I have a feeling that whatever we do and however we send it, that it will never even remotely measure up to the most wonderful expression of all when God sent His love and greetings that first Christmas. He wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, laid Him in a manger, and said to every one of us, "I genuinely, personally, and forever love you."

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light, and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 10, 2008

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Family Life Conferences 7 - 9 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11
FBC, Taylorsville, 601-785-4747

- "Marriage Enrichment" - Tate Cockrell, Family Counselor
Broadmoor Baptist Church, Madison
- "Rewiring a Senior's Life" - Glenn Shows, Family and Adult
Consultant, MBCB

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
FBC, Holly Springs, 662-252-2627

- "Transforming Senior Adults" - Glenn Shows, MBCB
- "Steps to a Godly Home" - Don Hicks, Pre-school/Children's
Consultant, MBCB

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26
Northeast BC, Marion, 601-681-8383

- "Blended Families" - Dwight Faulkenberry, Pathway Family
Counseling, Tupelo
- "The Family's Heart" - Glenn Shows, MBCB

Sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department

Young Pastor's Retreat "Dealing with the Stuff of Ministry"

Pine Ridge Lodge

Lake Tlak O'Khata, Louisville, Miss.

(Highway 15 south of Louisville)

MARCH 28-29, 2008

2 p.m. on Friday - 1 p.m. on Saturday
For pastors age 35 and younger

Casual dress



The retreat brings together young pastors to focus on the essentials of ministry and good pastoral work in today's environment. Opportunities will be provided to network with other young pastors from across the state and dialogue about current realities in ministry. Plan to attend for your benefit and the benefit of other young pastors.

For more info, please contact Alan Woodward

• Phone: 601.292.3308 or 800.748.1651, ext. 308

• E-mail: awoodward@mcbcb.org

• Fax: 601.714.7426

• Mail: C. Alan Woodward, PO Box 530, Jackson 39205-0530

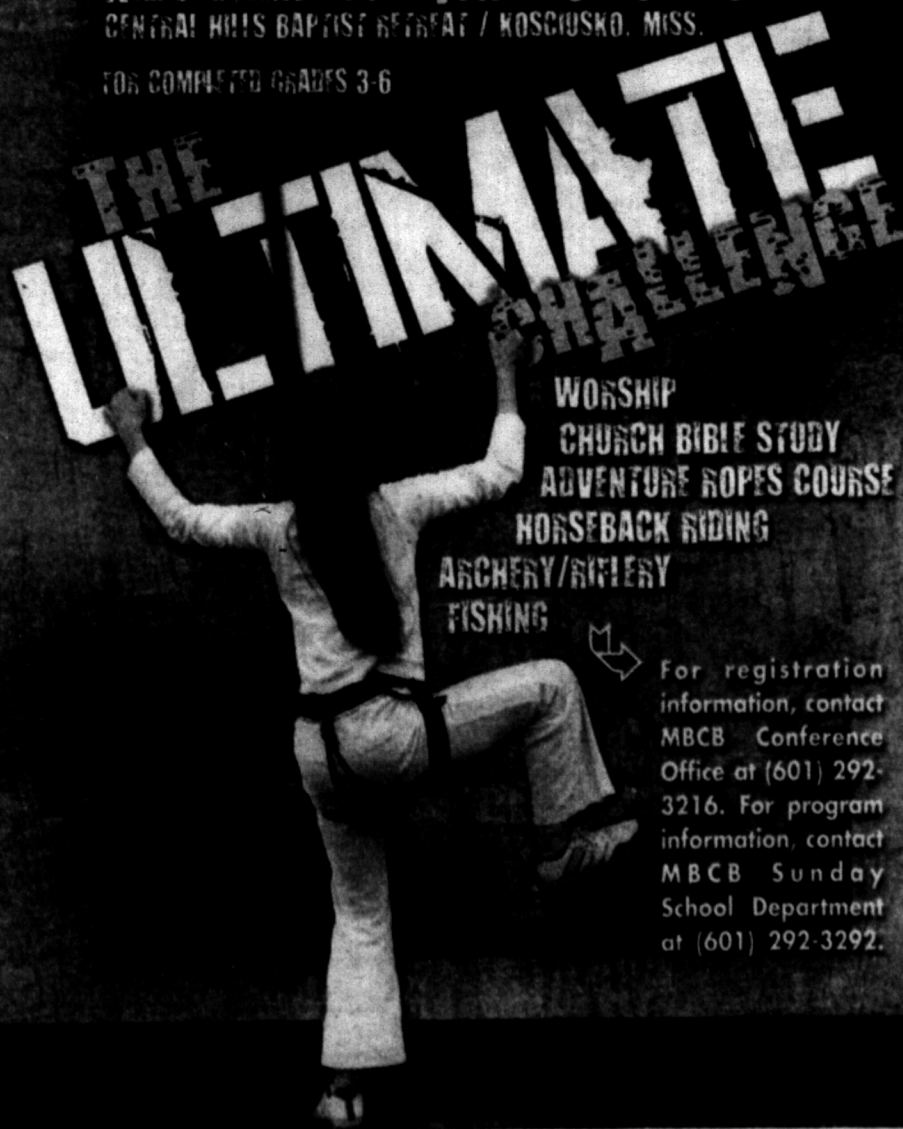
Leaders

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- John Temple
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CHURCH BIBLE STUDY

ADVENTURE ROPES COURSE

HORSEBACK RIDING

ARCHERY/BIGLERY

FISHING

For registration information, contact MBCB Conference Office at (601) 292-3216. For program information, contact MBCB Sunday School Department at (601) 292-3292.

SERVANTS AT SUPPERTIME - BIVO MINISTERS AND WIVES SUPPER

Monday, January 21, at 4:30-6 p.m. Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada

Warm fellowship - good food and encouragement to do the work of an evangelist, all at the same time.

You are invited to the **BIVOCATIONAL MINISTERS AND WIVES SUPPER** on Monday, January 21, at 4:30-6 p.m. in the Activities Center (there will be signs directing you) at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada. You will be blessed participating in the evening session of the Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference that begins on Sunday evening, January 20, and goes through Tuesday morning, January 22.

For more information, please contact Dale Holloway, 601.845.2107 or 601.292.3305, or E-mail him at bivoldr@aol.com.

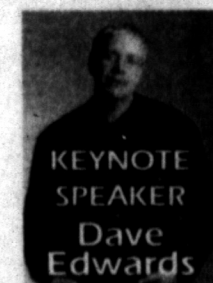
For Singles: Did I Get Out of Bed for This?

Saturday, January 26, 2008 12:30 - 4 p.m.

Easthaven Baptist Church, Brookhaven

No cost to you! Conference starts with ice cream social and praise band ... Cookout after conference for a great time of fellowship with singles from all over Mississippi! For more info, contact Talmadge Smith at 601-833-8111.

Discipleship and Family Ministry



KEYNOTE
SPEAKER
Dave
Edwards



CHURCH FACILITIES & FURNISHINGS WORKSHOP

March 18, 2008, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Parkway Baptist Church • Clinton
802 North Frontage Road

For more information, contact Pastor/Leadership Development
at 601-292-3305 or kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

For program info:
ANGIE BOYDSTUN
1.800.748.1651, ext. 294
601.292.3294
aboydstun@mbcb.org

SHELLEY HOLLINGSWORTH
1.800.748.1651, ext. 292
601.292.3292
shollingsworth@mbcb.org



VBS Jumpstart
for all Pastors, VBS Directors and VBS Leaders
February 4, 2008, 9-11 a.m.
First BC, Lyman
February 5, 2008, 9 a.m.-noon
Liberty BC, Flowood/5199 Lakeland Dr.
February 5, 2008, 6:30-9 p.m.
Longview Heights BC, Olive Branch

a missions weekender
for teenage girls, grades 7-12
and their leaders

For more info: wMu Department, 1.800.748.1651
or 601.292.3316 or www.mbcb.org

2008 OPPORTUNITIES

Contact us for a copy
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kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

4th Annual Bible Evangelism



For info: call
Discipleship
and Family Ministry
at 601-292-3373 or
1-800-748-1651
or E-mail
gshows@mbcb.org

FAITH IN ACTION HOSPICE MINISTRY

Monday, February 11, FBC, Starkville

Tuesday, February 12, FBC, Laurel

9 a.m. - noon

Facilitator: Dick Brogan

Training for pastors, staff and others
involved in hospice ministry

Pre-register by contacting Kay McDonnell, Pastor/Leadership Development
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For more information, contact the Evangelism Department
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Christian Performing Arts Festival February 22-23, 2008

Cost: \$35 per person by January 18
(Includes lunch on Saturday and T-shirt; free admission for one leader per 10 paid participants)



The Christian Performing Arts Festival offers platform performances, creative worship and 90+ seminar options in the areas of puppetry, clowning, drama, media, missions, church recreation and youth ministry. These seminars range from beginning to advanced levels and are designed to better equip youth ministers, lay leaders, church staff and students to be more creative in their worship ministry.

and in creative arts evangelism. It is our hope that you will consider being a part of this weekend in 2008.

First Baptist Church
Clinton

- Puppetry
- Clowning
- Drama
- Media
- Missions
- Church Recreation
- Youth Ministry



Featured
Guests:
FISHWORKS

*Child care is not provided.
This conference is geared for
6th grade thru adult.*

*If you have any questions about the festival, please contact the
Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at 601-292-3283
or 1-800-748-1651 or E-mail at redwards@mbcb.org.*

Senior Adult Rally

Emmanuel BC
Grenada
January 22
8-11:45 a.m.

Breakout Sessions
Music:
Russell Newport
Preacher:
John Avant

2008 MISSIONARY MOMENTS PRAYER GUIDE

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THE
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2008 BAPTIST DOCTRINE STUDY

preview brunches

with Matt Buckles

First Baptist Church, Vicksburg, pastor

Monday, January 28, 9 a.m.-noon
Central Hills Baptist Retreat

Thursday, January 31, 9 a.m.-noon
Patterson Place, Camp Garaywa

Preregistration is requested by January 18. The \$10
registration fee includes the full brunch and LifeWay's new
study course book, THE BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE
by Charles S. Kelley, Jr., Richard Land and
R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (2007).

For more info: Discipleship & Family Ministry Dept.
601-292-3287, 1-800-748-1651 or dhicks@mbcb.org

The Time is Now! Acts 1:8

STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE 2008



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Avant



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Jim
Futral



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Galbreath



Frank
Page



Bobby
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January 20-22, 2008

EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI

For more information contact
the Evangelism Department
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Pray this day for...

January 11 - January 24, 2008

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"Believers can claim God's promises for every aspect of life, in joy or sadness, for spiritual failures or victories."

Baptist Adults - Winter 2003-2004

Please pray for four Mexican young professional (former students) as they answer God's call to go to India (three) and China (one) in the next few months. One will be leaving as soon as January.

(1) Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (CAC Emphasis); (2) State Evangelism Conference, Emmanuel BC, Grenada, 20th - 21st (Even); (3) Thank you so much for another year of faithful prayer for the Shan Dai people of China, Thailand and Laos. Praise God that more and more Shan Dai are entering the kingdom of God!

Internally Displaced people of Colombia - There are five people who all have something in common. They were recently trained in how to plant house churches using the Oikos/Training for Trainers church-planting strategy. Please pray for them, as they will start serving the Lord in this capacity in January.

(1) Bi-vocational Ministers/Ministers' Wives Supper during Evangelism Conference (P/LD); (2) Pray for missionaries Stan and Jani Waller as they return to the field from the U.S. in January. Pray for wisdom to set priorities and evaluate progress to determine how the Wallers should lead the ministry in 2008.

As the Professional Team of Maracay begins a new year of ministry among the professional class of Maracay, Venezuela, pray that they will remain steadfast and focused on their goal of sharing the gospel with this difficult to reach group.

(1) State Senior Adult Evangelism Rally (following Evangelism Conference) (D&FM); (2) Many students from Baptist pastors' schools across West Africa have finished exams and are at home. Pray that they will continue to trust the Lord to meet spiritual, emotional and physical needs as they complete their studies.

There are few known believers among the Poniarks (Bulgarian Muslims). Ask God to strengthen their faith and teach them more about Himself and that they will be bold witnesses among their families. Pray that each of them will have the joy of leading at least one person into God's family this year.

Give thanks for volunteers coming to serve among the Wala people of Ghana and Burkina Faso. Some college students will join the Wala Team this month to help with village evangelism among Wala villages in Ghana. Intercede for these students as they work. Pray that the Wala people will see the truth and be set free!

(1) 2009 MBCB Budget Planning (FS); (2) Currently several Ile de France team members are in need of housing within Paris. Please pray that they will find homes soon so that they can begin to minister in their neighborhoods. Pray for real estate agents and landlords who are favorable to internationals.

(1) Area Keyboard Festivals: FBC, Laurel; FBC, McComb; Central BC, Meridian; FBC, Jackson; Fairview BC, Columbus; Harrisburg BC, Tupelo (CM); (2) Pray for key relationships to form among Filipinos as attempts are being made to link believers together to witness in a very unreached area.

(1) Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra Retreat, Madison Central High School, Madison, 6:30 p.m., 11th - 12th (CM); (2) Please pray for Governor Stuart L. Rock of Cayman Islands north-western Caribbean Sea.

Two US groups will be in Guadeloupe in January to prayerwalk for the ministry of the French Creole Professionals Team. Each group has a member over 100 years old. Pray for their safety, and ask that God will use the prayers of these saints to break down walls that are hindering hearts from turning to God.

(1) One Voice Retreat, Jackson, 18th - 19th (CM); (2) Pray for the volunteers joining the Prague Czech Republic ministry team in 2008 to reach Prague for Christ. Ask God to raise up high school and college students who will be led of Him to spend time building relationships with people in Prague this summer.

(1) State Prayer Summit, "An Interceding Witness," Emmanuel BC, Grenada (WMU); (2) In January, three volunteers from Georgia and missionaries Rusty and Debbie Pugh, and Congolese translators will visit the homes of many Yanzi people. Pray for traveling mercies for the volunteers, and that God will use this group to glorify Himself.



"An Interceding Witness"

January 19, 2008
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Grenada, Mississippi

The State Prayer Summit will be held at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada, Mississippi, on January 19, 2008. The summit is a day of prayer and worship for the state of Mississippi. The summit is a day of prayer and worship for the state of Mississippi. The summit is a day of prayer and worship for the state of Mississippi.



Jones



Jones

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3/1/01
MISS LAURA WINGO
Parents: Floyd & Sylvia
South America

3/6/95
MISS ERIN DEMARS
Parents: Guy & Cindy
West Africa

3/15/97
MISS ABIGAIL HEWITT
Parents: Earl & Ramona
West Africa

3/16/87
MISS ARIEL ALEXANDER
Parents: Mark & Karen
South America

3/17/03
MISS EMMA GRACE EPPS
Parents: Aaron & Tiffany
South America

3/24/89
MISS ROBYN KYZER
Parents: Russell & Melinda
Central & Eastern Europe

3/26/00
MISS CAROLINE GRACE
Parents: Tim & Cathy
Central & Eastern Europe

3/27/88
MISS ALLISON
MARTIN
Parents: Asbury & Hope
South America

3/28/92
MISS HEATHER BEAMAN
Parents: Brad & Lenora
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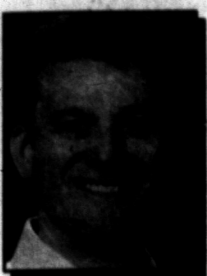
PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the wMu.

HOUSE TOPS

Analysis: Mormon's Book of Abraham full of holes

Fourth in a series

By Mike Licona
Correspondent



Licona

In the last part of this series, we saw some of the problems Mormonism faces with the Book of Mormon and archaeology. Now we will examine another book of the Mormon scriptures called the Book of Abraham. The problems encountered here are devastating to the credibility of Mormonism.

Mormonism has four sources that they consider to be Scripture: the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Pearl of Great Price, and Doctrine and Covenants. The Pearl of Great Price contains the Book of Moses, the Book of Abraham, and the Writings of Joseph Smith which include his translation of Matthew 23:39 through all of Chapter 24, and excerpts from History of the Church.

The Book of Abraham is of particular interest. In 1835, Smith purchased some mummies that were accompanied by ancient Egyptian papyri. Smith claimed to be able to translate the papyri because they were written in the same language as the Book of Mormon, "Reformed Egyptian." As he translated the manuscripts, he claimed that part contained the Book of Abraham, a book written by Abraham himself.

The papyri for the Book of Abraham contained some drawings with Egyptian writing that were subsequently published in Times and Seasons, a Mormon newspaper. The papyri were lost after Smith's death in 1844. In 1967 the papyri were rediscovered by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, which returned them to the Mormon Church.

The Mormon Church confirmed them to be the originals and published them for others to see. Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought asked three prominent Egyptologists to translate the papyri. The Mormon Church had no need to fear. Since Joseph Smith was a true prophet, the contemporary translation would be very close to Smith's.

However, the stakes were high. The translations of the

Egyptologists could either confirm Joseph Smith as a true prophet or convict him as a charlatan. Furthermore, if Joseph Smith was terribly wrong in his translation of the Book of Abraham, it follows that he cannot be trusted to have produced an accurate translation of the Book of Mormon, which he himself claimed was in the same language.

John Wilson and Klaus Baer, both Professors of Egyptology at the University of Chicago, and Richard Parker, a Professor of Egyptology at Brown University, were asked to do the task. Here are the results.

John Wilson said that the text Smith used to translate the Book of Abraham was actually a related mortuary text of late times, the so-called Book of Breathings. The Book of Breathings was an ancient Egyptian document which was buried with the dead in order to provide guidance in the afterlife (which explains why Joseph Smith's papyri were found among the mummies he had purchased).

Klaus Baer said the papyri that Smith thought was the Book of Abraham were actually The Breathing Permit

belonging to the priest Hor. This is another name given for the Book of Breathings. Baer provided a comparison of his translation with Joseph Smith's. It is quite easy to see that there is not the slightest resemblance between the two. For example:

• Baer's translation: the

• Smith's translation: now this priest had offered upon this altar three virgins at one time who were the daughters of Onitah, one of the royal descent directly from the loins of Ham, these virgins were offered up because of their virtue they would not bow down to worship gods of wood or stone, therefore they were killed upon this altar.

Richard Parker likewise identifies Smith's Book of Abraham papyri as the Book of Breathings.

These results are absolutely devastating to Mormonism. Joseph Smith did not have the faintest idea of what he was doing while he was translating the papyri into the Book of Abraham. This certainly brings into question his ability to translate the gold plates into the Book of Mormon,

since both the Book of Mormon and the Book of Abraham were in "Reformed Egyptian." The Book of Abraham problem is the death knell for Mormonism.

So far we have seen that, contrary to Mormon claims, the text of the Bible is trustworthy. We have also seen that the discipline of archaeology has been anything but friendly to the Book of Mormon. Finally, we have just observed that, at best, Joseph Smith was mistaken to believe that he had the ability to translate Reformed Egyptian, thus rendering the Book of Mormon and the Book of Abraham as unreliable.

At worst, he was a fraud.

Licona is director of apologetics and interfaith evangelism at the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in Alpharetta, Ga. This article has been edited for length. For full article with end notes and references, visit <http://www.sbc Baptist Press.org/bpn ews.asp?id=27019>. Licona's analysis appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Read additional free articles on Mormonism and related topics at www.4truth.net.



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Practical Principles for Christian Living



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION • VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 1

SEVENTH IN THE NATION

By Jimmy Porter, executive director
Miss. Baptist Christian Action Commission

The national organization, Americans United for Life (AUL), ranks our state seventh when it comes to protecting the unborn. The U.S. Supreme Court in 1973 decided that the right of privacy secured by the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment includes a woman's "fundamental right" to determine whether or not to end her pregnancy. Over the years, state legislatures have attempted to make changes to modify the force of this statute by providing protection for the unborn.

In the last several years Mississippi has made great strides in this long, slow process. In fact, the AUL states, "Mississippi exemplifies how women can be protected and the number of abortions drastically reduced through incremental legislation." Mississippi has only one abortion clinic, and according to the AUL, the abortion rate has dropped more than 60 percent.

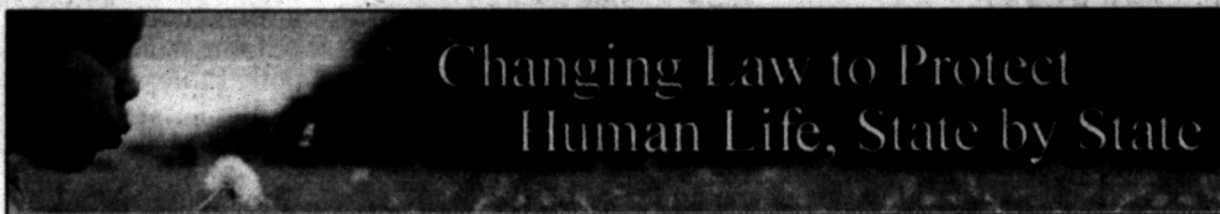
Sunday, January 20, 2008 is designated Sanctity of Human Life Sunday across the Southern Baptist Convention. The Christian Action Commission encourages all our churches to highlight the importance of life. Even though we have made remarkable strides, being number seven is not good enough. If our favorite collegiate football, basketball, or baseball team were ranked number seven nationally, we would be ecstatic, but at the same time we would still be working for that number one

position. Life is far more important than a ballgame, so we should never quit striving to be number one.

For clarification, here are a few of the statutes passed by our legislature that have provided protection for the unborn. Mississippi passed an Informed Consent Law which requires a 24-hour reflection period before an abortion and both parents consent before a minor may have an abortion. The last segment of this bill was strengthened due to legislation passed last year.

Also, a physician may not perform an abortion without providing a woman adequate counseling on medical risks and available alternatives to abortion provided by public and private agencies.

Our state has laws in place that regulate health and safety regulations for abortion clinics. Mississippi demands that second-trimester abortions be provided in hospitals. The physician providing the abortion must be licensed by the state of Mississippi. In addition, we prohibit organizations which receive state funds from using them to make referrals for abortion. In 2007 our legislature passed a law that stipulates that a woman considering an abortion be given the right to view an ultrasound and to hear the heartbeat of her child prior to an abortion.



Changing Law to Protect Human Life, State by State

This brief synopsis of some of our laws reveals why we are number seven. But, why are we not number one? Primarily, because we have never passed any legislation regarding destructive embryonic stem cell research, human cloning, regulations pertaining to the drug RU-86, or any measures regulating assisted reproductive technologies.

Our state, thanks be to our elected officials and the organizations that have lobbied long and hard, is a good model to be followed by other states. Yet, much more could be done and we must never stop. Every chance you get, thank your legislators and others for their tireless efforts.

"With God all things are possible" and who knows — with concerted efforts, the 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision may be turned upside down or at least dismantled to the point that each state can determine its own position on life.

Remember, you are reading this because your mother believed life was a gift from God to be cherished and protected. Let's pass this along to our children and grandchildren. Observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on January 20.

Clarification

The page one article from the issue of January 3 may have led some readers to conclude that the Crossover event being held January 19 in connection with the 2008 Mississippi Baptist State Evangelism Conference in Grenada is limited to the Grenada area. "This is not Crossover Grenada but rather an Evangelism Crossover sponsored by North Central Association and its member churches with assistance from the Mississippi Baptist Convention through Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering grants," said Lowell Ingram, missions director for North Central Association.

"The name Crossover Grenada may be of concern to those churches outside the city of Grenada and especially those from Tallahatchie County. There are 17 churches participating, most of whom are outside the city of Grenada and half of whom are from Tallahatchie County," Ingram said.

"Three thousand and five hundred packets containing one copy each of The Hope DVD, Here's Hope New Testament, The Way Gospel tract, and The Baptist Faith and Message, along with a letter of greeting from the individual church, will be distributed to households in Grenada and Tallahatchie counties," Ingram said in the January 3 article.

"Plans are to conduct prayer rides/walks through the areas scheduled to receive the packets on January 13 with the packets delivered during the following week, culminating on January 19."

For more information on the Evangelism Crossover, contact Ingram at (662) 226-5071. E-mail: ncba1@bellsouth.net.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

1. Bethel Church, Columbus, exceeded its Lottie Moon Christmas offering, receiving \$2,707 over a goal of \$2008. Shown are Virginia Wittke, pastor Walter Butler, and Alice Bobo.
2. The children of Calvary Church, Ellisville, recently held a production entitled American Ideal, similar to the American Idol TV show. Shown are the participants.
3. First Church, Richland, Cleary Church, Star Church, Briar Hill Church, East Side Church, and McLaurin Heights Church are sponsoring a DiscipleNow Jan. 23-26 for students. Cost is \$25. For more information, visit www.westsidednow.com.



1. Lottie Moon offering goal exceeded, Bethel Church, Columbus



2. American Ideal, Calvary Church, Ellisville

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Breakthrough in Forgiveness

Psalm 32:1-11

By Andy Vaughn

While attending seminary at Southwestern, the Trinity River trails in Fort Worth and Dallas provided me with a wonderful place to bike and run. Other residents of the area would frequent the trails to enjoy the beautiful Texas sunsets and enjoy the freedom of the outdoors. The excitement and joy was visible on people's faces as they ran along the trails and cranked out the miles on their bicycles.

While riding my road bike late one afternoon, I noticed someone that just did not fit into the exercise scene of the Trinity trails. He was dressed in a suit and was wearing a name tag. Not only was he wearing a name tag, he was wearing the most distraught, downtrodden

expression I had ever seen on a person. I decided to talk with him and see just what was plaguing this gentleman as he crept along the trail while the bicycles zoomed past him.

The gentleman shared with me that his wife had just left him and that he was sinking in the flood of guilt from sin that had invaded his life. Guilt from his sinful life had taken command and driven him to the point of ending it all! As he poured out his hurt and pain to me, the most surprising thing to me was that he claimed to be a Christian!

After talking and praying with him I asked myself, "How could someone that claims to be a Christian suffer so much from the guilt of their sin?" Consider the question, "How

Vaughn

are found in God's forgiveness from sins should experience a joy in life matched by no other. The sins of the Christian are covered and no longer stand as a detriment to the Christian's life.

With God, forgiven also means removed. Psalm 103:12 states, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." Christians must walk in the joy of knowing that their horrible, detestable sins are covered by the blood of Christ and removed from their presence. Sin is no longer a burden for those that are forgiven.

To receive this awesome forgiveness that removes the guilt

can I experience God's forgiveness?" Psalm 32 describes how people can have forgiveness from sin and leave the guilt behind. Let's look at Scripture together.

Psalm 32:1 (NASB) says, "How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!" Those who

of sin, one must be willing to come before God in confession. Psalm 32:3 (NASB) says, "When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long." No news is not always good news. God wants to hear from his children. Notice how the Psalmist's body wasted away in guilt while he was silent about his sin. When people keep their sin to themselves, they feel the weight of the guilt as it continues to amass.

Confession of sin requires communication with God! Psalm 32:5 (NASB) says, "I acknowledged my sin to Thee, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord'; and Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin." Confession includes admitting to our sin and it also includes turning away from our sin through repentance. Repentance requires one to make a genuine effort to turn away from their sin.

Verses six and seven describe the Psalmist in the

midst of his deliverance from the guilt of sin. He knows that the flood waters could rise around him at anytime, but he also knows that He can call on God for help and deliverance.

Psalm 32:8 says, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you." One of the greatest pitfalls of sin is the thought of being alone. Christians must understand that God is available to instruct in His righteousness to avoid a return to sin. God's word teaches that He can be trusted to guide His children away from sin.

Verse 11 declares that those who experience the forgiveness of God are His righteous ones and they should shout for joy. No matter what past or present sins you struggle with, God's forgiveness is available to those that desire to walk in His joy and leave the guilt of sin behind.

Vaughn is pastor of First Church, Fulton.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

God Allows Us to Choose

Genesis 12:1-9; 13: 8-13

By Melleen Moore

"Victorious Christian living is a series of new beginnings" — so aptly stated by George Morrison quoted by Warren Wiersbe. This statement is a focus on choices — new beginnings that we make everyday. Just as Abram, Sarai and Lot made choices, so do we. God gives us the freedom to choose to obey, to worship and to avoid sinful influences thus making new beginnings with God.

Choice to Obey, Genesis 12:1-4

The Lord's call to Abram was straight forward and forceful as he said "Get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred and from thy father's house unto a land that I will show thee" (Genesis 12:1

KJV.) Abram, Sarai and Lot had traveled with Abram's father to Haran from the Ur of the Chaldeans, a pagan society. God's call was for Abram to leave home, family and friends and his homeland continuing on to Canaan which was the original destination (Genesis 11:31 KJV). For God to use and bless Abram, he called him out to be obedient. The obedience to the call carried four covenant promises. God would make Abram a great nation, a great name, a great blessing and through him a great blessing for all peoples of the earth. The choice to obey was a new beginning to a life of fellowship with God. At 75 years of age, Abram took Sarai and Lot with all their possessions and people on the jour-



Moore

ney to Canaan with clear insight from God, the land of Canaan was to be for his descendants. Abram chose to obey, will we?

Choose to Worship, Genesis 12: 5-9

As Abraham passed through the land to Shechem and Moreh, he was in a sense possessing the land for his descendants. Our scripture notes that the Canaanites were in the land which will later be a factor as the children of Israel came to possess the land after wondering in the wilderness. Verse seven states "There buildeth he an altar unto the Lord" (Genesis 12:7 KJV). The journey continued to Bethel and Ai where he built an altar and "called on the name of the Lord" (Genesis 12:8 KJV). This clearly defines Abram's intent of worshipping God — making it a priority in the new land as a part of his new beginning. Abram chose sincere worship

by erecting altars to honor the continuing fellowship with God and to serve as a reminder to follow God. Abram continues his Southward journey which leads him to Egypt due to the famine in the land of Canaan. Abram chose sincere worship, will we?

Choosing to Avoid Sinful Influences, Genesis 13: 8-13

Upon returning from Egypt to Canaan, Abram and Sarai possessed livestock, silver, gold and servants. They traveled to Bethel "to the place where his tent had been at the beginning...to the place of the altar which he had made there at first" (Genesis 13:3-4 KJV). Lot returning with Abram also possessed livestock and servants. They were faced with finding adequate pasture and water for all their animals. Abram recognizing the strife of the herdsmen wanted to resolve the conflict and treat others fairly. He being the older, desiring peace, and willing to accept the decision of

Lot took the lead in the peace-making process. Abram valued family relationships as he said "for we are brethren" (Genesis 13:8 KJV). He desired peace between his and Lot's herdsmen. A third concern was peace with the inhabitants of the land — Canaanites and Perizzites. Lot was asked to make a choice — go right or go left. His eyes beheld the well watered plains of the Jordan as had been told of the Garden of Eden and of the richness he knew in Egypt. Without regard of his elder uncle, he chose selfishly what he wanted. So Lot journeyed east and separated from Abram. His choice took him into Zoar near Sodom which was an evil city. This choice proved to be disastrous for Lot as he was attracted to the sinful influences of the city. Abram remained in Canaan placing his faith, trust and obedience in God. Abram chose to avoid sinful influences, will we?

Moore is a member of Macedonia Church, Petal.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) type-written, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

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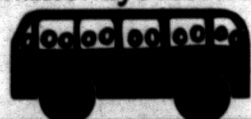
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PODCH

Clue: B=L

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark One: Fifteen.

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College News



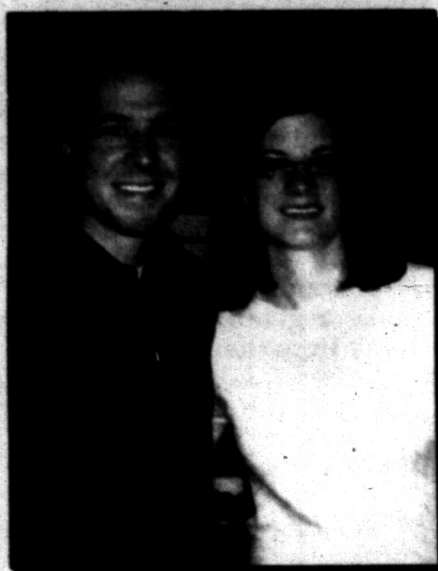
1. McLelland, WCU

The Winters School of Music at William Carey University will host the second annual Clarence Dickinson Organ Festival Jan. 17, 18, and 19 in the Smith Auditorium on the Hattiesburg campus. The festival will feature a competition for beginning and intermediate organists Jan. 18 at 2 p.m. On Jan. 19, a master class for organ students will be conducted at 10:00 a.m. by Jeff McLelland, director of music and fine arts at Independent Presbyterian Church, in Birmingham, Ala. McLelland will also play an evening concert that is free to the public on Jan. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Smith Auditorium.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Live nativity scene participants, Union Church, Tylertown



3. Missionaries commissioned, First Church, Kosciusko

3. First Church, Kosciusko, commissioned Paul and McKenzie Montague Davidson as missionaries to Naples, Italy, Dec. 23. Barry Corbett, pastor.

4. Enon Church, Batesville, entered a Christmas float in the Crowder and Batesville Christmas parades. Shown are the participants.

5. A group from Mars Hill Church, Winston County, traveled to Duluth, Ga., Nov. 23 to help with processing shoeboxes sent to Operation Christmas Child, working Friday and Saturday on the project. Shown are the participants.

1. Union Church, Tylertown, presented a live nativity scene Nov. 30-Dec. 2. Shown are the participants.

2. Salem Church, Tylertown, held an RA recognition recently. Shown, from left, are Garret Henning, Nathan Wicker, Camden Gilmore, and Dalton Henning.

6. Lincoln County Association is sponsoring a singles event, Did I Get Out of Bed for This?, Jan. 26, 12:30-4 p.m., at Easthaven Church, Brookhaven. The event includes an ice cream social and cook-out. Dave Edwards, keynote speaker. For more information, call (601) 833-8111.

7. The children of Southside Church, Lucedale, visited Palestine Gardens in Lucedale in early December. Shown are Don Bradley, curator of Palestine Gardens, and the children.

8. Park Haven Church, Laurel, is hosting a gospel sing Jan. 19, 7 p.m., featuring The Southern Psalm. A love offering will be taken.

www.mbc.org



2. RA Recognition service, Salem Church, Tylertown



4. Christmas parade participants, Enon Church, Batesville



5. Operation Christmas Child, Mars Hill Church, Winston County



7. Children visit Palestine Gardens, Southside Church, Lucedale